

Meeting
of the
Vigo County Council
June 14, 2022

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING June 14, 2022 5:00 P.M.

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VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Calling of the roll
- 3. Corrections to the journal of the preceding meetings, if needed
 - a. May 4, 2022 Sunshine Meeting
 - b. May 10, 2022 Meeting
 - c. May 31, 2022 Special Call Meeting
- 4. Public comment limited to items NOT on tonight's agenda.
- 5. Communications from elected officials, other officials, or agencies of the County
- 6. Reports from committees
- 7. Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations
 - i. ROC 2022-027, Amend Resolution 2022-05 and Adopt Ordinance 2022-02 – Treasurer – Investment of Public Funds
 - ii. ROC 2022-28, Annual tax abatement compliance review
 - iii. ROC 2022-24, Resolution of Reallocation of Existing Appropriation 2022-07 – Vigo County Health Department – Out of Series Transfer
 - iv. ROC 2022-29, Resolution 2022-08 County Council Resolution of the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana, for the Express Purpose of a Balanced Budget
- 8. Ordinances relating to appropriations
 - i. Additional Appropriation 2022-19; ROC 2022-23: Vigo County Health Department purchase of 2 new trucks
 - ii. Additional Appropriation 2022-20; ROC 2022-25: Vigo County Health Department reimbursement to General Fund
 - iii. Salary Ordinance 2022-16; ROC 2022-26: Vigo County Health Department add employee and stipend
 - iv. Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2022-21; ROC 2022-26: Vigo County Health Department
- 9. Honorary resolutions
- 10. Resolutions relating to fiscal policies of the Council
- 11. Appointments
- 12. Adjournment

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the Taxpayers of Vigo County, Indiana, that the Vigo County Council will meet at the Vigo County Government Center, 127 Oak Street, Terre Haute, Indiana at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 to consider the following appropriations in excess of the budget of the current year. The Vigo County Council will also meet on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at the same location for a Sunshine Meeting.

	REQUESTED
VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND/1159	
1159.44460.000.0000 Vehicles	74,180
1159.39990.000.0000 Covid 19 Expenses/CV Relief	300,000
1159.10010.000.0000 Payroll Salaries	25,500
1159.15210.000.0000 FICA/SS	952
1159.15220.000.0000 PERF	3,621
1159.15230.000.0000 Insurance	18,675
Total Vigo County Health Department Fund	\$ 422,928

Pursuant to State of Indiana Executive Order 20-09 (the "Order"), the meeting will be made available by electronic means. Any votes conducted will be by roll call vote. In accordance with the Indiana Open Door Law and the Order, media and members of the public are encouraged to observe the meeting at https://www.vigocounty.in.gov/department/division.php?structureid=71. Members of the public may submit comments prior to the meeting to county.in.gov

JAMES W. BRAMBLE VIGO COUNTY AUDITOR TO BE PUBLISHED: Friday, May 27, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 2022-05

Authorizing and Approving the Investment of Public Funds

WHEREAS Indiana Code 5-13-9-5.7 allows for the fiscal body of a political subdivision to adopt an investment policy authorizing the investment of public funds of the political subdivision for more than two years and not more than five years and in accordance with Indiana Code 5-13 including Indiana Code 5-13-9-2; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana as follows:

- 1. Authorization. The County Council of Vigo County is hereby authorized and confirmed to have the authority to authorize the investment of public funds for more than two years and not more than five years.
 - 2. The investment of public funds shall be done only with approval of the investing officer.
- 3. Investments must be made in accordance with Indiana Code 5-13 including Indiana Code 5-13-9-2 and 5-13-9-5.7.
- 4. There shall be a limit of total investments outstanding under this policy to not be more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total portfolio of public funds invested by the political subdivision, including balances in the transaction accounts.
 - 5. Expiration Date. This policy expires and has an expiration date of December 31, 2024.
- 6. This policy authorizes the investing officer to make investments that have a final stated maturity of more than two years but not more than five years.
- 7. The investing officer may contract with a federally regulated investment advisor or other institutional money managers to make investments under this policy.
 - 8. Effective Date. This Resolution is effective immediately upon its date of adoption.

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as amended this 14th day of June 2022.

Absent ☐ Abstain☐	R. Todd Thacker	
Absent ☐ Abstain☐	Vicki Weger	
Absent ☐ Abstain☐	Marie Theisz	
Absent ☐ Abstain☐	Travis Norris	
Absent ☐ Abstain☐	Brenda Wilson	
Absent ☐ Abstain☐	David Thompson	
Absent ☐ Abstain☐	Aaron Loudermilk, President	
	Absent	Absent

Vigo Auditor

James W. Bramble

ORDINANCE 2022-02

ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS BY THE VIGO COUNTY TREASURER

WHEREAS Indiana Code 5-13-9-5.7 allows for the fiscal body of a political subdivision to adopt an investment policy authorizing the investment of public funds of the political subdivision for more than two years and not more than five years and in accordance with Indiana Code 5-13 including Indiana Code 5-13-9-2; and

WHEREAS, the Vigo County Council did adopt such an investment policy by Resolution 2022-05 effective May 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 5-13-9-5.7 provides that a fiscal body that has adopted a written investment policy under subsection (a) of said statute may adopt an ordinance authorizing its investment officer to make investments in accordance with such investment policy and said statute.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana as follows:

- 1. Authorization. The Vigo County Treasurer is hereby authorized to make an investment of public funds for more than two years and not more than five years.
- 2. Investments must be made in accordance with Indiana Code 5-13 including Indiana Code 5-13-9-2 and 5-13-9-5.7.
- 3. There shall be a limit of total investments outstanding under this authorization to not be more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total portfolio of public funds invested by the political subdivision, including balances in the transaction accounts.
 - 4. Expiration Date. This Ordinance expires and has an expiration date on May 10, 2026.
- 5. This Ordinance authorizes the Vigo County Treasurer to make investments that have a final stated maturity of more than two years but not more than five years.
- 6. The Vigo County Treasurer may contract with a federally regulated investment advisor or other institutional money managers to make investments in accordance with this Ordinance.
 - 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance is effective immediately upon its date of adoption.

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of June 2022.

Aye 🗌 Nay 🗍	Absent ☐ Abstain☐	R. Todd Thacker	
Aye	Absent Abstain	Vicki Weger	
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Marie Theisz	
Aye 🔲 Nay 🔲	Absent ☐ Abstain☐	Travis Norris	
Aye 🗌 Nay 🗍	Absent ☐ Abstain☐	Brenda Wilson	
Aye 🗌 Nay 🗍	Absent ☐ Abstain☐	David Thompson	
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Aaron Loudermilk, President	
Attest:			
W			
James W. E		<u></u>	
Vigo Audit	or		

RESOLUTION OF RE-ALLOCATION OF EXISTING APPROPRIATION 2022-07

It has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes which appropriated are hereby re-allocated in the following amounts:

03 268 1	JEAI TH IMMIIN	ZATION OD ANT/0100	REQUESTED	APPROVED
93.268 HEALTH IMMUNIZATION GRANT/8109				
From:	8109.10010.000.0000		\$16,500	
	8109.15210.000.0000		\$1,262	
	8109.15220.000.0000		\$2,375	
	8109.15230.000.0000	-	\$18,798	
To: 8109.37850.000.0000 Professional Services				
TOTAL		\$38,935		
Approved o	on this 14th day of June,	2022.		
Ay				
1				
Na	y Abstain	R. Todd Thacker	÷	
Ay	e Absent			
Nay	y Abstain	Vicki Weger		
Aye	e Absent			
Nay	Abstain	Marie Theisz	·	
Aye	Absent			
Nay	Abstain	Travis Norris		
Aye	Absent			
Nay	Abstain	Brenda Wilson		
Aye	Absent			
Nay	Abstain	David Thompson		
Aye	Absent			
Nay	Abstain Aa	ron Loudermilk, President		
Attest:				
James W.	Bramble			

Vigo County Auditor

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA, FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF A BALANCED BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County Council is tasked with approving and fixing annual operating budgets of all county government offices and agencies; and

WHEREAS, Vigo County last adopted a balanced budget in the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of expense appropriations enacted by the Vigo County Council for an annual budget, may not exceed the estimated revenue of the county in the annual budget period; and

WHEREAS, "Revenues" is defined as all income received by the county general fund and all other county funds, excluding the proceeds of bonds or other loans. And, "Expenses" is defined as the ordinary operating costs of county government, including debt service payments made during the budget period; and

WHEREAS, if expenses exceed actual revenue, when reconciled at the close of the annual budget period, the subsequent annual budget must subtract any shortfall from the projected revenue available for that subsequent annual budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA, that:

- (1) The total amount of expense appropriations enacted by the Vigo County Council for the annual budget may not exceed the estimated revenue of the county in the annual budget period.
- (2) If expenses exceed actual revenue received by the County when reconciled at the close of the annual budget period, the subsequent annual budget must subtract any shortfall from the projected revenue available for that subsequent annual budget.

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of June 2022.

Aye 🗌 Nay 🗍	Absent	R. Todd Thacker			
Aye 🗌 Nay 🗍	Absent Abstain	Vicki Weger			
Aye	Absent Abstain	Marie Theisz			
Aye	Absent Abstain	Travis Norris			
Aye 🗌 Nay 🗍	Absent	Brenda Wilson			
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	David Thompson			
Aye Nay	Absent	Aaron Loudermilk, President			
Attest:					
James W. Br	James W. Bramble				
Vigo Audito	or				

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2022-19

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget. Now, therefore:

SEC. 1. Be it ordained by the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the Vigo County Health Department Fund, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

				ADVERTIS	SED	APPROPRIATED
Vigo County Heal						
1159.44460.000.			\$		74,180	
Total Vigo Cour	nty Health De	epartment Fund	\$		74,180	
Approved on this 14	4th day of Jun	e, 2022 .				
Aye	Absent					
Nay	Abstain	R. Todd Thacker				
Aye	Absent					
Nay	Abstain	Vicki Weger	-			
Aye	Absent					
Nay	Abstain	Marie Theisz				
Aye	Absent					
Nay	Abstain	Travis Norris				
Aye	Absent					
Nay	Abstain	Brenda Wilson	9)			
Aye	Absent					
Nay	Abstain	David Thompson				
Aye	Absent	Aaron Loudermilk,				
Nay	Abstain	President				
Attest:						
James W. Bramble						
Vigo County Auditor						

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2022-20

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget. Now, therefore:

SEC. 1. Be it ordained by the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the Vigo County Health Department Fund, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

			ADVERTISED	APPROPRIATED
Vigo County Health Department Fund/1159 1159.39990.000.0000 Covid 19 Expenses/CV Relief			300,000	
Total Vigo County Health	=	<u>\$</u>	300,000	
Approved on this 14th day of	June, 2022 .			
Aye Absent Nay Abstain	R. Todd Thacker			
Aye Absent				No. of Contract of
Nay Abstain	Vicki Weger			
Aye Absent				
Nay Abstain	Marie Theisz			
Aye Absent				
Nay Abstain	Travis Norris			
Aye Absent				
Nay Abstain	Brenda Wilson			
Aye Absent				- A SAN TIME TO THE TO THE TO THE TO THE SAN TIME TO THE TOTAL
Nay Abstain	David Thompson			
Aye Absent	Aaron Loudermilk,			
Nay Abstain	President	-		
Attest:				
James W. Bramble				
Vigo County Auditor				

SALARY ORDINANCE 2022-16

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana, that for the salaries of Vigo County Indiana, that for the salaries of the County Government Office Holders and the employees for the year ending December 31, 2021, the following sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be otherwise expressly stipulated for by law provided, however, that disbursements from each appropriated are further limited to the amounts listed for the detailed accounts making up such appropriation unless said accounts are increased or decreased in another ordinance or resolution by the County Council.

SECTION 2. That for the said fiscal year, there is appropriated out of the Vigo County Health Department Fund the following:

DDODOGED

ADDDOVED

	PROPUSED	APPROVED
VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (1159)		
Add one Director of Nursing PAT B	\$45,854	
Add stipend	<u>\$4,810</u>	
TOTAL	\$50,664	

SECTION 3. Effective June 15, 2022.

James W. Bramble Vigo County Auditor

Approved on this 14th day of June, 2022.

дррг	Approved on this 14th day of June, 2022.			
	Aye	Absent		
	Nay	Abstain	Travis Norris	
	Aye	Absent		
	Nay	Abstain	Brenda Wilson	
	Aye	Absent		
	Nay	Abstain	Marie Theisz	
	Aye	Absent		3
	Nay	Abstain	Don W. Morris	
	Aye	Absent		
	Nay	Abstain	Vicki Weger	
	Aye	Absent		
	Nay	Abstain	David Thompson	
	Aye	Absent		
	Nay	Abstain A	aron Loudermilk, President_	
Attest				

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2022-21

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget. Now, therefore:

SEC. 1. Be it ordained by the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the Vigo County Health Department Fund, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

	ADVERTISED	APPROPRIATED
VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPT FUND/1159		
1159.10010.000.0000 Payroll Salaries	\$25,500	
1159.15210.000.0000 SS/FICA	\$1,952	
1159.15220.000.0000 PERF	\$3,621	
1159.15230.000.0000 Insurance	\$18,675	
Total Vigo County Health Department Fund	\$49,748	
Approved on this 14th day of June, 2022.		
Ave Absent		

Aye	Absent		
Nay	Abstain	R. Todd Thacker	
Aye	Absent		
Nay	Abstain	Vicki Weger	
Aye	Absent		
Nay	Abstain	Marie Theisz	-
Aye	Absent		
Nay	Abstain	Travis Norris	
Aye	Absent		
Nay	Abstain	Brenda Wilson	
Aye	Absent		
Nay	Abstain	David Thompson	
Aye	Absent	Aaron Loudermilk,	
Nay	Abstain	President	»

James W. Bramble	
Vigo County Auditor	

Attest:

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sunshine Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance

President Aaron Loudermilk called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Calling of the roll

R. Todd Thacker – present, Vicki Weger - present, Marie Theisz - present, Travis Norris – present, Brenda Wilson - present, David Thompson – present, and Aaron Loudermilk - present.

Public Comments

Dustin Havens, 3463 East Moyer Drive, property owner, member of the Legion, and business owner, spoke against the trail. He had many questions, asking about motorized carts. He wanted to know if this was a bike path, walk trail, cart path, exactly what is being proposed. A discussion was then had about how to handle questions. It was suggested that public comments be concluded and the Commissioners could then answer any questions raised during public comment. Commissioners Chris Switzer said that the decision had been made not to allow motorized vehicles. County Engineer Larry Robbins said that he could probably field some of the questions raised. Mr. Robbins did say that ADA compliant electric scooters would be allowed and there would be some discussion about e-bikes. There was lengthy discussion about: fencing; working with the homeowners about what they desire on a case by case basis; when fencing would be erected; the estimated cost of the various items of the project and the total cost of the project; whether or not any documents had been signed with the railroad at this stage.

David Whitesell, 10951 Louisville Road, Commander of American Legion Post 328. He is against the project citing concerns of liability issues, privacy issues, homeless people, and safety issues. There was discussion about the on-going lawsuit. He had information that the Indiana DNR noted that the bridges present on the line and their supporting foundation structures may impede upstream fish migration and he wanted to know whether the railroad went to the Indiana DNR to see if this has been done or will the County have to tear the bridges out. He asked about the stability of the bridges, guardrails, safety issues, costs that will arise after acquisition, property taxes, and lack of transparency.

Aaron Gadberry, 4391 Carriage Lane., spoke in favor of the trail and the benefits of having it.

John Proctor, 6720 East Gross Drive, said he is not in favor of the trail citing concerns of trespassers on 4-wheelers, mushroom hunters, deer poachers, lack of privacy. He also had a problem with the cost of track removal. He suggested it should be a green space. Lengthy discussion took place.

Steve Sankey, 5326 East Gross Drive, wanted to know if he would have access to his hay fields. Commissioner Brendan Kearns addressed this issue and assured Mr.

Sankey that they would work with him on this and that he would have access. Commissioner Kearns said they would meet with him and work out the issues. A lengthy discussion continued.

At this point, the Council expressed concern that this was turning into a question and answer session that the Commissioners should have handled before this matter was brought before the Council.

Larry Sweet, 8025 South Moveover Street, said he had previously spoken in favor of the trail. Among other comments, he wanted to point out that there will be trespassers on property no matter where it is located. He also wanted to know what would happen to the land in question if it were not turned into a trail. He felt there would be more trespassing/mischief taking place if this wasn't used for trail purposes.

Buddy Green, 2000 North 9th Street, spoke in favor of the trail.

Beth Massey, 6952 South State Road 46, said she has family that lives along the area in question, is a member of the Legion, and is the daughter of the Commander. Spoke against having the trail.

Dan Watson, 1397 Watertree Road, spoke in favor of having the trail.

Joe McKee, 7460 East First Drive in Riley, spoke adamantly against the trail.

Ryan Hartleroad, spoke against the trail. Some of his comments included his concerns about people hunting in the woods along the trail, trespassing, and better use of the money to improve current roads in the County. He felt the best use would be to let the land go back to nature.

Jim Mauriello, 5860 South Canal in Riley, spoke favorably for the trail.

Andrew Lewsader, 6395 South Canal, spoke favorably for the trail.

Jo Heck, 5972 Boulder Road, spoke against the trail. Her comments included the fact that she moved there to be in the country, not to have people walking or biking behind them. She felt that the money could be used for better purposes.

Communications from elected officials, other officials or agencies of the County

Councilwoman Brenda Wilson ask if the Commissioners had actually talked to the Indiana DNR about the trestles. Larry Robbins responded that he thought there was some restriction on the stream flows. The structures he has inspected do not impede the flow. They are open water structures and he does not believe they impede any natural flow but that can be confirmed with DNR. Ms. Wilson then noted that some of them were really dilapidated and asked if the County would have to tear them down and bear that cost. Brendan Kearns noted that the issue with the fish and the DNR was part of the application process and the federal government had already approved it. All requirements and concerns have been met. There has been some illegal dumping that will have to be cleaned up if this project is approved. With regard to the dilapidated trestles, Larry Robbins said there might have to be some minor repairs. Todd Thacker said that he had rode the trail after receiving permission from the railroad to go on the property so that he could make an informed decision. He gave a synopsis of what he saw. Marie Theisz also asked about the 911 report that Commissioner Kearns had requested. Mr. Kearns said that he had a report run from the last three years to see if there had been any specific crime calls on the Heritage Trail and none were found. Ms. Theisz asked Larry Robbins if this is the typical process of looking at the land first and asked him to explain the process for better understanding. He said this is a little different

than the usual process and explained how it works. There was a lengthy discussion. The question was asked why it wasn't included with the budget requests last year for this year. Mr. Robbins indicated that at that point, they were still in negotiations with the railroad and did not have a dollar figure for what would be needed. That figure was not finalized until about the end of November. There was also discussion about grants that could be applied for to help fund this project. Brendan Kearns said that he, Mike Morris and Larry Robbins had met in April with the main grants person in Indianapolis, who counseled them on what they needed to do to pursue grants. At that time, they were still trying to get the railroad to donate the property which did not work out. The key to moving forward with grants is that there has to be matching dollars ahead of time. Part of this ask includes the \$250,000 easement acquisition, \$140,000 tie removal for a total of \$390,000 just to get started. Money on top of that, if the Council approves the funds, would allow them to have the ability to pursue grants. There has just been another Next Level Trails Grant out for award. The County had partnered with the City of Terre Haute in submitting an application which has been denied. There was a lengthy discussion. It was noted that the railroad had extended the deadline for a decision to June 1. If the project moves forward, Mr. Robbins would submit this project to the Rose-Hulman Institute students to assist with the design process, which would help save money for the County. He explained the time frame of the design process culminating with the construction to begin next year. Aaron Loudermilk asked what would happen to the property if the County did not move forward and Mr. Robbins did not know other than the County's agreement would be null and void. Brendan Kearns said that in a conversation with the vice president of the Indiana Railroad earlier today, he indicated that if the County did not move forward, the property would go on the auction block. The parcels would be offered up for sale, either as a whole or would offer it for sale to the adjoining landowners. There was some disagreement about this information from the landowners in the meeting and discussion continued.

First reading by summary reference of proposed ordinances and resolutions

- i. ROC 2022-20, Resolution 2022-05 Treasurer Adopt Investment Policy
- ii. ROC 2022-21, Public Safety/LIT Options for Distribution to Units for Distribution in 2023
- iii. ROC 2022-22, Salary Ordinance 2022-14, Additional Appropriation 2022-18 Vigo County Clerk, Payroll Salary

Reports from committees

There were none

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.

i. Resolution 2022-05; ROC 2022-20: Treasurer, Adopt Investment Policy

Josie Thompson, Vigo County Treasurer, explained the last investment policy on file expired in 2016. We are required by State Board of Accounts to have a policy in place. County Attorney Terry Modesitt indicated that he had drafted the policy pursuant to

Indiana Statute. This will give the Treasurer the authority to invest and try to get some return on some of the monies. This is a standard resolution.

ii. Public Safety LIT; ROC 2022-21: Options for Distribution to Units for Distribution in 2023

Aaron Loudermilk explained that this is something looked at every year. This is the option for distribution to the Township Fire Districts. A table with options for different scenarios has been provided. Each fire district is dependent on their percentage allocations for runs and levy combinations. 65% runs/35% levy distribution percentages has been used for the last several years. The run numbers used will be from calendar 2021. The information was compiled from County Dispatch. Hopefully, action will be taken on this next week and then each fire department will be required to give written notice to the Council prior to June 30 whether or not they want to participate. If they choose to participate, Council will vote on those allocations for distribution in the August meeting.

iii. Resolution 2022-05; ROC 2022-15: Commissioners, Expressing Interest in the Purchase of a Non-Exclusive Surface Easement Known as the Riley Spur

Todd Thacker asked if action was taken on this next week, he understood that the next step was for two appraisals to be obtained to get a fair market evaluation. Larry Robbins confirmed that to be correct and they were currently working to get the appraisals now. Aaron Loudermilk asked if it was the average of the two appraisals that gave the top dollar amount. Mr. Robbins said yes but the difficulty is to find two appraisers qualified to appraise this type of property. They are doing their best to find somebody. Council Administrator advised that in the next Ordinance (coming up for discussion), it states that it is the average of the two appraisals but not to exceed \$250,000.

iv. Ordinance 2022-01; ROC 2022-15: Commissioners, Ordinance Authorizing Acquisition of Non-Exclusive Surface Easement Known as The Riley Spur

This contains a lot of the same language as Ms. Miller previously stated. Price not to exceed the average of the two appraisals or \$250,000.00, whichever is less.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Salary Ordinance 2022-14, Salary Ordinance 2022-15, and Additional Appropriation 2022-18; ROC 2022-22: Vigo County Clerk, Payroll Salary

President Loudermilk stated that all three of these will be discussed since they all relate to the same request. Leanna Moore, Chief Deputy Clerk, explained that this is just the need for changing some payroll line items. They are out of funds in the New Clerk Incentive Fund for salaries. Upon asking the Prosecutor's Office to contribute some of their funds, that office gave them \$25,000 until this can be lined out. Money is not coming in like it did pre-Covid 19. The reimbursements normally received are just not there. They are asking to move payroll for one person that normally gets paid out of New

Clerk Incentive to be paid out of the general fund for the Clerk's Office and to move one person who works solely on records to be moved into the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund. The money is already there, but they need Council permission to accomplish this. She thought she needed to leave about \$10,000 in salaries for the Perpetuation for extra work that normally gets paid out of that which are generally very small amounts. Kylissa Miller added that they also needed an appropriation for the Perpetuation Fund and there is a salary ordinance for that fund to allow the Auditor's Office authority to pay from that fund, and, at the same time, they are also eliminating a position in the Clerk Perpetuation Fund. So Salary Ordinance 2022-14 adds the position into Clerk Perpetuation, and Salary Ordinance 2022-15 deletes a full time deputy court clerk from the New Clerk Incentive Fund. There was a brief discussion about the positions. Ms. Miller said that moving this over is a temporary fix. At some point the Perpetuation Fund will not be able to fund that position either. The current annual revenue for that fund is not enough to cover that salary. Leanna Moore said that it would take quite a few years to deplete the fund since the current cash balance is \$320,000. Immediate action is needed or the position for the New Clerk Incentive will not be funded. This position is the deputy that works in Title IV-D Court. That is the only court she works in. Todd Thacker asked if these appropriations were made, if she would then adjust her budget request for next year. Ms. Moore said that they would make those recommendations when going into budget meetings for next year. This appropriation is just for the remainder of this year.

ii. Additional Appropriation 2022-11; ROC 2022-15: EDIT and Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2022-12; ROC 2022-15: American Rescue Plan

Commissioner Chris Switzer thanked the Council for meeting with him about some American Rescue Plan projects that may be done in the future. He did advise that the option of using the American Rescue Plan money to fund the Riley Trail Project is now off the table. It does not qualify under the rules. There had been a gray area of interim rules when they started discussing the project but he has learned since this request was submitted that this project does **not** qualify under the American Rescue Plan Act. They could try using the ARP funds but if the government audits the uses and rules that it does not qualify, the money would still have to come from somewhere, so the best plan now would be to purchase from EDIT and be finished with it. He also said that it would be possible for the Council to appropriate just the \$340,000 needed to acquire the easement and pay for the removal of the ties. In that way, they could budget over the next few years and complete this in sections. That would also allow the County to control illegal dumping, trespassing, get through the planning and design process, meet with the individual landowners and go from there. A lengthy discussion took place with several Council members expressing their opinions, concerns and other options, including grants that could be applied for under Next Level Trails. The Commissioners will contact the attorney for the railroad to see if they can definitively find out what will happen with the land if this project does not go forward. Commissioner Kearns also pointed out that several residents of the area have built structures on the easement owned by the railroad. If Vigo County acquires the easement, the residents were informed at a Town Board meeting in June of 2021 that Vigo County would not require removal of the structures.

However, if another entity acquires the easement, it is likely that such entity would require removal by the landowners.

Todd Thacker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

INUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL SUNSHINE MEETING MAY 4, 2022

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of June, 2022.

-				
Aye Nay		Absent Abstain	R. Todd Thacker	
Aye Nay		Absent Abstain	Vicki Weger	
Aye Nay		Absent Abstain	Marie Theisz	
Aye Nay		Absent Abstain	Travis Norris	
Aye Nay		Absent Abstain	Brenda Wilson	
Aye Nay		Absent Abstain	David Thompson	
Aye Nay		Absent Abstain	Aaron Loudermilk, President	
Attest:				
James W. Bramble				

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. Council Chamber, Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance

President Aaron Loudermilk called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Calling of the roll

Present: R. Todd Thacker, Vicki Weger, Marie Theisz, Travis Norris, Brenda Wilson, David Thompson, Aaron Loudermilk.

Correcting of the journal of the preceding meeting if needed

April 5, 2022 Sunshine Meeting April 12, 2022 Regular Meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the April 5, 2022 Sunshine Meeting. David Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sunshine Meeting. Travis Norris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, voting was as follows: Todd Thacker – abstained due to absence from the meeting; Vicki Weger – aye; Marie Theisz – aye; Travis Norris – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; David Thompson – aye; Aaron Loudermilk – aye. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

There were no corrections to the minutes of the April 12, 2022 regular meeting. Todd Thacker made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting. David Thompson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Public Comments

Jared Rankin, 3893 E. Sandalwood Avenue. He gave an update on the Stryker Lucas devices being purchased for the fire districts. 10 of the 13 devices have been delivered and should be implemented by the end of the week. He expressed his thanks to the Council and all involved in procuring these devices. He plans to contact the Council about a group training session in the future.

Communications from elected officials, other officials or agencies of the County

Kevin Gardner, Vigo County Assessor, announced that the Form 11's went out on April 29. If you haven't received one by now, it is probably due to a bad address and you should contact his office to make arrangements on how to get yours. They have received about 200 back as undeliverable and have tried to find alternate addresses but, if they do not have a current address, they cannot get it to you. He then asked about the status of the compensation study being conducted by Baker Tilly. He believed that the department heads and Council were supposed to be presented with documents for review by mid-April to see if anything needed to be adjusted and then mid-May was when the Council would try to determine what they wanted to do. He said that he had not seen anything as of this date. Kylissa Miller, Council Administrator, said that may have been the original dates set but that the study actually started later than what was originally anticipated. She believed the dates were moved to May and June but nothing has yet been received. President Loudermilk said that it was his understanding that the finished product was to be provided in June for the Council to review.

Reports from committee(s)

There were none

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Resolution 2022-05; ROC 2022-20: Treasurer – Adopt Investment Policy

Josie Thompson presented this last week along with County Attorney Terry Modesitt. This is a standard resolution. David Thompson asked Terry Modesitt if the expiration date in paragraph 5 should have a specific date inserted rather than the language of "four years". Mr. Modesitt stated that this is statutorily required language. David Thompson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-05. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

ii. ROC 2022-21, Public Safety LIT – Options for Distribution to Units for Distribution in 2023

Aaron Loudermilk explained these distributions last week. A table outlining the proposed distribution to each unit had been provided to each Council member. This is based upon 2021 run and levy numbers. Historically a 65%/35% split has been used and is shown on the table provided. The fire departments have been satisfied with this distribution. Todd Thacker made a motion to approve the 65%/35% distribution. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

iii. Resolution 2022-06, ROC 2022-15: Commissioners – Resolution Expressing Interest in the Purchase of a Non-Exclusive Surface Easement Known as the Riley Spur

This was discussed in depth at last week's meeting. Brenda Wilson stated that she felt there were too many unanswered questions to go ahead with this. Todd Thacker stated that he had received more feedback about this project than anything else since he had been on the Council. He had tried to respond to each person, listened to the information presented, talked to the attorneys, and inspected the proposed area involved. However, he felt that no matter what decision is ultimately made, about half the people will be unhappy and the other half will be happy. He was ready to move forward. Brenda Wilson gave her reasoning why she thought that the taxpayers did not want this project to go forward and compared it to the recent referendum presented by the school corporation that had been resoundingly defeated. She felt this was a frivolous expense. Marie Theisz had concern about comparing the referendum with this project because she felt they were not comparable issues and gave her reasoning why. Pending lawsuits and potential lawsuits were discussed. Council Attorney Robert Effner talked about his brief research of the lease he had been provided with today. With regard to the question of abandonment, he did find a United States Code Statute that indicated that for purposes of rails to trails, this would not be considered an abandonment. That would resolve the question of the easement. He had briefly reviewed the lease and discussed his concerns. He felt that the railroad should warrant title to the easement and accept liability for any existing claims or lawsuits. He thought there had been some verbal conversations about that. Lengthy discussion ensued during which it was noted that the Service Transportation Board has exclusive jurisdiction and it pre-empts all federal and state law. Larry Robbins, County Engineer, advised that some of the concerns mentioned (such as environmental concerns) are already covered in this agreement. He assured everyone that they are doing their due diligence to make sure that everything is covered with regard to County liability. There was lengthy discussion about the June 9 deadline. County Attorney Terry Modesitt explained that this date comes from an Order entered by the Service Transportation Board (whose law governs this

matter) which states that if an agreement for interim trail use rail banking is reached by June 9, 2022, for the right-of-way, interim trail use rail banking may be implemented. If no agreement is reached, the Indiana railroad may abandon the railroad subject to any outstanding conditions. It would basically go to the railroad to decide what they are going to do. The railroad attorney provided information showing what their options are if this happens. They could (1) consummate the abandonment and sell the parcels it owns piecemeal and those property owners with reversionary interest in the line obtaining their respective parcels, (2) not consummate the abandonment and retain the line as a line of railroad, (3) consummate a discontinuance of service which will allow the Indiana railroad to continue the property as a railroad but will terminate its option to provide service over the line until it determines there is future traffic, or (4) sell the line to a third party as a line of railroad. Mr. Modesitt also advised that he had received a stipulation from the federal lawsuit indicating as follows: "(1) the parties agree with respect to the claims the plaintiff owned their respective property on June 9, 2021, the date the Surface Transportation Board issued the notice of the interim trail; (2) the plaintiff's property is immediately adjacent to the railroad right-of-way described in the NITU; (3) for that portion of railroad right-of-way adjacent to the plaintiff's property, the railroad acquired an easement for railroad purposes and accordingly, no threshold title issues remain with respect to these claims." So what the attorney is saying is that based upon this stipulation, the railroad has already proven they bought the easement rights and the only thing left to determine with the property owners would be if the railroad has to pay them any additional money or not. Discussion continued. President Loudermilk asked Mr. Effner if the Council approved Resolution 2022-06 and Ordinance 2022-01, would they necessarily have to do anything about the additional appropriation....they could either approve, deny or table. Mr. Effner replied that such was correct. Discussion continued regarding funding. Commissioner Switzer stated that acquisition of the lease does not qualify for ARP fund usage. Should the rules change/become more lenient in the future for the ARP funds, the acquisition funds used from EDIT could be reimbursed to EDIT. If the lease is acquired through EDIT funds, then construction of the trail, etc. could be funded by ARP funds. Kylissa Miller pointed out that if federal grant funds were obtained for use of the trail, then ARP funds cannot be used as matching funds. State grants would qualify for the use of ARP funds as long as it was not a pass through grant from the federal government. Lengthy discussion continued. President Loudermilk laid out the options before them on this matter. Discussion continued. Brenda Wilson made a motion to table this until there is additional clarification, additional assurances, and have the resolution rewritten to include that the railroad will hold harmless. There are too many issues. Mr. Effner clarified some issues. Terry Modesitt advised that he and Mr. Effner had discussed some of these items. These have all been discussed with Larry Robbins, Mr. Modesitt and the railroad. The way these things work, the railroad will not guarantee anything but they give the County the right to check it all out, get title insurance and have it all reviewed so that the County can be confident before this is finalized. The environmental part works the same way. The County can check it out and if there's a problem, the deal is off. Same thing with the title. This is the way they operate. Ms. Wilson withdrew her motion. Todd Thacker made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-06 Expressing Interest in the Purchase of a Non-Exclusive Surface Easement Known as the Riley Spur. Marie Theisz seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, voting was as follows: Todd Thacker – aye; Vicki Weger - aye; Marie Theisz - aye; Travis Norris - aye; Brenda Wilson - nay; David Thompson aye; Aaron Loudermilk – aye. With a vote of 6-1, the motion passed.

iv. Ordinance 2022-01, ROC 2022-15: Commissioners – Ordinance Authorizing Acquisition of Non-Exclusive Surface Easement Known as The Riley Spur

This Ordinance authorizes the Commissioner to purchase the non-exclusive surface easement known as the Riley Spur for a price not to exceed the average of two appraisals or \$250,000,

whichever is less. Todd Thacker made the comment that action on this is just for the \$250,000. They are not saying right now that they are going to spend the \$1.3 million, not going to raise taxes, this is just addressing the opportunity being afforded with Indiana Railroad to acquire the easement. What projects are done, as well as the \$140,000 appropriation to remove the ties, all will have to come back to the Commissioners. He plans to hold the Commissioners accountable. As he sees this, this is just looking at the \$250,000 for the Resolution just passed. It was then clarified that there is no appropriation, this is just setting the amount for the purchase price with a \$250,000 ceiling. David Thompson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-01. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, voting was as follows: Todd Thacker - aye; Vicki Weger - aye; Marie Theisz – aye; Travis Norris – aye; Brenda Wilson – nay; David Thompson – aye; Aaron Loudermilk – aye. Upon a 6-1 vote, the motion carried.

v. Salary Ordinance 2022-14, ROC 2022-22: Vigo County Clerk AND Salary Ordinance 2022-15, ROC 2022-22: Vigo County Clerk AND Additional Appropriation 2022-18, ROC 2022-22; Vigo County Clerk

The request pertaining to these ordinances was withdrawn today by the Clerk's Office.

vi. Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2022-11; ROC 2022-15; EDIT President Loudermilk pointed out that the request on the appropriation was for \$1.3 million so before any motion is made, he wanted everyone to be aware of that number. The ask from the Commissioners right now is \$250,000 for the lease and \$140,00 for tie removal. Todd Thacker made a motion to amend the Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2022-11 from \$1,316,640 to \$390,000. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, voting was as follows: Todd Thacker - aye; Vicki Weger - aye; Marie Theisz – aye; Travis Norris – aye; Brenda Wilson – nay; David Thompson – aye; Aaron Loudermilk – aye. Upon a 6-1 vote, the motion carried. Brenda Wilson made a motion to table Additional Appropriation 2022-11 with the stipulation that a special call meeting be held before June 9. Travis Norris asked if this could be done and there was time to schedule a special call. It was noted there would have to be 48 hours' notice of such a meeting. Mr. Effner recommended that a date certain be included in the motion. Ms. Wilson then added the date of May 31, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. to her motion for a special call. Chris Switzer said he needed to know what additional information is needed because, other than a meeting, he has had no conversation with Ms. Wilson. She stated she needed to know the railroad is going to hold the County harmless from any lawsuits. In writing. She said she was still concerned about the property owners' rights. Vicki Weger advised that she would not be in town on May 31. Travis Norris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, voting was as follows: Todd Thacker nay; Vicki Weger - nay; Marie Theisz - nay; Travis Norris - ave; Brenda Wilson - ave; David Thompson – aye; Aaron Loudermilk – aye. Upon a 4-3 vote, the motion carried. Brendan Kearns asked that each Council member that has concerns to please send the Commissioners something in writing within the next week so that they can address the questions formally and make sure that all questions they have are answered. He will be unable to attend the Special Call meeting due to a previously scheduled family vacation. He will answer directly everything he can by email if the questions are submitted timely.

vii. Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2022-12; ROC 2022-15: American Rescue Plan

This request was withdrawn by the Commissioners since the request did not qualify for funding under the American Rescue Plan.

Honorary Resolutions

There were none.

Resolutions relating to fiscal policies of the Council

There were none.

Appointments There were none.

Adjournment

Brenda Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. By a unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL MAY 10, 2022

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of June, 2022.

Aye	Absent Abstain	R. Todd Thacker		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Vicki Weger	9-	
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Marie Theisz		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Travis Norris		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Brenda Wilson		
Aye	Absent Abstain	David Thompson		
Aye	Absent Abstain	Aaron Loudermilk, President		
Attest:				
James W. Bramble Vigo Auditor				

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL Special Call Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance

President Aaron Loudermilk called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Calling of the roll

Present: R. Todd Thacker, Vicki Weger, Marie Theisz, Brenda Wilson, David Thompson, and Aaron Loudermilk. Travis Norris was absent.

Public Comment Limited to Items Not on Tonight's Agenda There were none.

Communications from elected officials, other officials or agencies of the County There were none.

Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2022-11; ROC 2022-15: EDIT

President Aaron Loudermilk stated that this concerned the recreational trails project in the amount of \$390,000 and asked if any Council members wanted to speak. Brenda Wilson stated that since she had requested this matter be tabled until tonight, she wanted to address the meeting. She had done some additional research. She also thanked the Commissioners for doing the best they could to get some additional changes and alterations made to the agreement. She also stated that the people who were on or close to the trail who had been promised fences and other things should pursue it and make sure the promises were fulfilled. She understood there would be an environmental study conducted before and would have a clean report before any sale. With that, she then made a motion to approve Amended Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2022-11. Marie Theisz seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote of 6-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Brenda Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. By a voice vote of 6-0, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALL MEETING OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL MAY 31, 2022

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of June, 2022.

	1			
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	R. Todd Thacker		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Vicki Weger		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Marie Theisz		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Travis Norris		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Brenda Wilson		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	David Thompson		
Aye Nay	Absent Abstain	Aaron Loudermilk, President		
Attest:				
James W. Bramble				
Vigo Au				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	*******			